Under the scheme, grants are provided to create infrastructural facilities in schools/institutions like construction of worksheds, laboratories, buildings, purchase of tools, and equipment, library books, raw materials for conducting practical test, etc.

95 vocational courses have been designed and developed for adoption by the State Governments depending upon their local conditions in areas such as Agriculture, Engineering and Technology, Business and Commerce, Health and Para-medical, Home Science, Humanities and other Sciences. Central Board of Secondary Education also has introduced vocational and job oriented courses in their affiliated schools in some of the above-mentioned fields. In addition, Computer/Information Technology(IT) based courses are being imparted in some States. Central Board of Secondary Education is taking steps to introduce IT based courses in their affiliated schools.

(c) Does not arise.

New education policy

1344. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:
PROF. M. M. AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 987, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd March, 2000 and state the details of the new education policy proposed to be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): The National Policy on Education was last reviewed and updated in 1992. A preliminary exercise for a fresh review of its implementation has been initiated. There is however no proposal to formulate a new education policy.

New conditions for appointment of professors

1345. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UGC has prescribed new conditions for appointment of Professors from the post of Readers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the grievances of the teachers who are agitating against UGC recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

NGOs working for development of education in Assam

1346. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are providing financial assistance to Non-Government Organisations functioning at present in Assam, for development of education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the effective measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Human Resource Development is providing financial assistance to Non-Government Organisations in the State of Assam for development of education under various schemes *viz.*, Non-Formal Education, Adult Education, Strengthening of Boarding and Hostel Facilities to Girls Students of Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools and Promotion of Sanskrit, Vocationalisation of Secondary Education etc. Details of such grants of Rs. one lakh and above are given in the Annual Reports of the Ministry.

Planning Commission's recommendations for Elementary Education

1347. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has made certain specific recommendations to achieve the target of Universalisation of Elementary Education;

(b) if so, what are the details of the major recommendations; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government for implementation of the recommendations of the Planning Commission in this connection?